

**Notice of Allowability**

Application No.

10/707,375

Examiner

Jared J. Fureman

Applicant(s)

IGVAL ET AL.

Art Unit

2876

**-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--**

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. ☒ This communication is responsive to the telephone interview on 12/6/2005.
2. ☒ The allowed claim(s) is/are 1-19.
3. ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some\* c) ☐ None of the:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. \_\_\_\_\_.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

\* Certified copies not received: \_\_\_\_\_.

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.  
**THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.**

4. ☐ A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
5. ☐ CORRECTED DRAWINGS (as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.
- (a) ☐ including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) attached
- 1) ☐ hereto or 2) ☐ to Paper No./Mail Date \_\_\_\_\_.
- (b) ☐ including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No./Mail Date \_\_\_\_\_.
- Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).
6. ☐ DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

**Attachment(s)**

- |   |  |
|---|--|
| 1. <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)  | 5. <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)                                |
| 2. <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)                                | 6. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413),<br>Paper No./Mail Date <u>120705</u> . |
| 3. <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statements (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08),<br>Paper No./Mail Date _____ | 7. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Examiner's Amendment/Comment  |
| 4. <input type="checkbox"/> Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit<br>of Biological Material          | 8. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance                       |
|   | 9. <input type="checkbox"/> Other _____.   |

### **DETAILED ACTION**

Receipt is acknowledged of the amendment, on 12/2/2005, which has been entered in the file. Claims 1-19 are pending.

### **EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT**

1. An examiner's amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes and/or additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 CFR 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it **MUST** be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee.

Authorization for this examiner's amendment was given in a telephone interview with Mr. George M. Macdonald (39,284) on 12/6/2005. The examiner's amendment was necessary in order to clarify claim 16, thereby removing any possible claim objection and/or rejection under 35 U.S.C. 112 2<sup>nd</sup> paragraph.

The application has been amended as follows:

#### **In the claims:**

Claim 16 has been amended as follows:

16. (currently amended) A method for tracking checks through a mail system and a bank clearing system comprising:

- obtaining a postal tracking identifier associated with a mail piece from a user;
- receiving a check identifier associated with the mail piece;
- receiving postal tracking data associated with the postal tracking identifier;
- receiving check tracking data associated with the check identifier;

associating the postal tracking data with the check tracking data; and  
sending the postal tracking data and the check tracking data to the user, wherein  
the postal tracking ~~number~~ identifier is generated by a mailing machine.

***Allowable Subject Matter***

2. Claims 1-19 have been allowed over the prior art of record.
3. The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance:

The prior art of record, taken alone or in combination, fails to teach or fairly suggest a method for tracking checks comprising: (re claim 1) associating the postal tracking data with the check tracking data; (re claim 6) associating the mail piece tracking information with the check processing information; (re claim 16) associating the postal tracking data with the check tracking data; in combination with the other claimed limitations as set forth in the claims.

Opiela et al (US 2002/0120562 A1) teaches associating postal tracking data with a money order identifier (see figure 3), however Opiela et al distinguishes between checks and money orders (see paragraph 5) and therefore teaches away from the use of checks.

Postal tracking methods and check tracking methods were known to those of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention (see the background of the invention, paragraphs 2-8, of applicant's specification). However, the prior art does not teach or suggest associating postal tracking data with check tracking/processing data.

Therefore, without the benefit of applicant's teachings, there is no motivation for one of

ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to combine the prior art in a manner so as to create the claimed invention.

Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

### ***Conclusion***

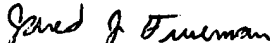
Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Jared J. Fureman whose telephone number is (571) 272-2391. The examiner can normally be reached on 7:00 am - 4:30 PM M-T, and every other Friday.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Michael G. Lee can be reached on (571) 272-2398. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only.

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For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

  
Jared J. Fureman  
Primary Examiner  
Art Unit 2876

December 7, 2005